



## 2009 Builder/Long Service Award

**Don Gallo**

The Builder /Long Service award is designed to recognize those volunteers who have left a significant mark on the sport of triathlon in our province. Through their participation as a racer, event organizer, or race official, the Long Service Award recognizes this contribution to the sport. If not for these individuals who dedicate selfless hours to organizing events, our sport would have dissolved away years ago.

This year's recipient has been involved in the sport of triathlon in Saskatchewan since its inception. Actually, this person was one of the founding members of STAC 25 years ago. He has served as a race director, volunteer and triathlete. STAC president and Director of Sanctioning. He currently sits as STAC's Director of Officials. He also happens to be chair of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee and tonight's MC. Anyone still not sure who we are talking about? Yes we are talking about DON GALLO.

Over the past 25 years, Don has served on the STAC Board on three separate occasions. Twice in the capacity as STAC President, and in his current role as Director of Officials. Don, along with Mike Levesque, was among the first officials from Saskatchewan who undertook the national triathlon officiating certification in Winnipeg in 1998 as a pilot. Don is one of only three Level 3 Technical Officials in Saskatchewan.

In his history with Triathlon, he has been the Race Director for the Bridge City Triathlon 5 times, and race directed the duathlon too many times to count

Don was also at the table for the Inaugural meeting of TriCanada in British Columbia. He played a commanding role in getting the Saskatchewan Triathlon Association started. He was also the founder of Saskatoon Triathlon Club Inc. and presided as president of that club for many of its infant years.

Here are some of the ways Don has been described by his peers in triathlon:

- Donald is always the voice of reason
- Don always encourages people do the right thing
- He is always inclusive
- he was always the "teacher" and truly cared that people understood...and is still very much that way today
- he has always cared about the future of triathlon in Saskatchewan ...technical training, training camps, coaching clinics
- as you know, Donald is always well organized and has thought things through
- Donald has always sought others opinion
- if you need something...anything....he's got it
- Donald has always been a technology resource...even in the early days
- Donald has been a retainer of triathlon history

- Donald was always the guy that made sure others were recognized for their contributions
- Donald always made sure the trophies were presented when nobody else cared.

Thanks Don for all your hard work and for bringing the sport of triathlon into so many lives.